

1-17-1977

## Henri Temianka Correspondence; (adalton)

Alison Dalton

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## Henri Temianka Correspondence; (adalton)

### **Description**

This collection contains material pertaining to the life, career, and activities of Henri Temianka, violin virtuoso, conductor, music teacher, and author. Materials include correspondence, concert programs and flyers, music scores, photographs, and books.

### **Keywords**

Henri Temianka, Alison Dalton, January 17, 1977, virtuosity in musical performance, culture, violinist, violin, chamber music, camaraderie, Efrem Zimbalist, discontent, humour, recreation and entertainment, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Jan. 17, 1977

Just thought I'd let you know that today I attended the first of the Zimbalist masterclass series at Curtis.

It was upsetting to see that his hearing and playing had deteriorated so greatly. I was disappointed with the class because he gave very few opinions or suggestions and generally alarmed the student when playing along with the pupil on a passage because Mr. Zimbalist was usually a half-step or more off pitch.  
(I've been spoiled by many inspiring Tzvi Zimbalist masterclasses.)

It was obvious that he is a great artist, though. If he could only hear what he was doing!

The saddest and most infuriating thing to me was that the other students in attendance were snickering behind his back because of his bad intonation.

How dare they be so rude and disrespectful to such a great artist? He's such a





[[Nick Dante 8/31/17]]

[[Henri Temianka Correspondence  
Alison Dalton  
Letter #5]]

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kind gentleman, why, he doesn't  
deserve that kind of treatment even  
if he couldn't play a single note.

I'm finding that it is the sad  
habit of many in the music world to  
put the whole worth of a person in his  
playing ability. It's almost as if personal  
integrity and character are of no importance.

I find students, in particular, falling  
into this group. They place this whole personal  
value, socially and spiritually, on their instru-  
mental prowess.

I can't stand this type of attitude. I  
am and they are still people even if they  
and I can't trill fast or perform left hand  
pizz. clearly.

I have many friends at school and  
I have overcome my inferior feelings because  
I realize I can someday achieve what they have.  
Until that day comes, I needn't be afraid of  
them just because they play well.

I've been giving many haircuts to the  
students and I've also given permanents to the  
girls. We go to lots of concerts, movies, dances, and [[ink stain]] cooking [[illegible]]

I'm 1<sup>st</sup> vln. in a quartet coached by [[ink stain]] [[illegible]]  
We're doing the Mozart K. 168      Love, Alison